

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-5 and 8-12 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§102(b)**

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al., International Immunol. 6:1567-1574(1994) and Mita et al., Biochem. & Biophysical Research Comm. 204:468-474 (1994). Claim 6 has been cancelled. As such, the rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 2-5 and 8-12 have been indicated as allowable in the Office Action of August 26, 2003. As the above-indicated amendments and remarks address and overcome the rejections of the claims, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of the Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicants have not received an initialed Form PTO-1449 for the IDS filed on March 17, 2000. Consideration of the references and return of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-indicated application she is requested to please contact MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD (Reg. No. 40,069) in the Washington DC area at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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